

Related Pending Patent Applications

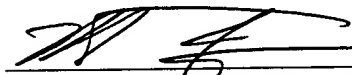
The Applicant would like to bring the following pending United States patent applications to the Examiner's attention which were filed at the same time as this patent application:

- 09/804,718 filed 3/12/2001;
- 09/804,619 filed 3/12/2001;
- 09/804,620 filed 3/12/2001; and
- 09/804,623 filed 3/12/2001.

D. CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, early reconsideration and allowance of this application are most courteously solicited. Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully asked that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. Alternatively should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, they are invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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February 25, 2004

Date

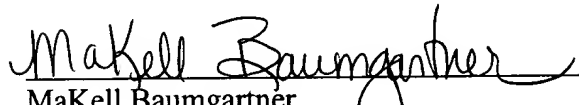
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with proper postage as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to:

**Mail Stop Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

On February 25, 2004.


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